Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/11/2018 4:08:14 PM
To: Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Askinazi, Valerie [Askinazi.Valerie@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Barkas, Jessica [barkas.jessica@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Blunck, Christopher [Blunck.Chris@epa.gov]; Buster, Pamela [Buster.Pamela@epa.gov]; Canavan, Sheila [Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Caraballo, Mario [Caraballo.Mario@epa.gov]; Carroll, Megan [Carroll.Megan@epa.gov]; Cherepy, Andrea [Cherepy.Andrea@epa.gov]; Christian, Myrta [Christian.Myrta@epa.gov]; Corado, Ana [Corado.Ana@epa.gov]; Davies, Clive [Davies.Clive@epa.gov]; Dekleva, Lynn [dekleva.lynn@epa.gov]; Devito, Steve [Devito.Steve@epa.gov]; Doa, Maria [Doa.Maria@epa.gov]; Drewes, Scott [Drewes.Scott@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Edelstein, Rebecca [Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Edmonds, Marc [Edmonds.Marc@epa.gov]; Elwood, Holly [Elwood.Holly@epa.gov]; Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]; Farquharson, Chenise [Farquharson.Chenise@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Feustel, Ingrid [feustel.ingrid@epa.gov]; Frank, Donald [Frank.Donald@epa.gov]; Gibson, Hugh [Gibson.Hugh@epa.gov]; Gimlin, Peter [Gimlin.Peter@epa.gov]; Gorder, Chris [Gorder.Chris@epa.gov]; Gordon, Brittney [Gordon.Brittney@epa.gov]; Grant, Brian [Grant.Brian@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Groeneveld, Thomas [Groeneveld.Thomas@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Helfgott, Daniel [Helfgott.Daniel@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Kapust, Edna [Kapust.Edna@epa.gov]; Kemme, Sara [kemme.sara@epa.gov]; Koch, Erin [Koch.Erin@epa.gov]; Krasnic, Toni [krasnic.toni@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Lee, Mari [Lee.Mari@epa.gov]; Lee, Virginia [Lee.Virginia@epa.gov]; Leopard, Matthew (OEI) [Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov]; Liva, Aakruti [Liva.Aakruti@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Menasche, Claudia [Menasche.Claudia@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Moss, Kenneth [Moss.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Mottley, Tanya [Mottley.Tanya@epa.gov]; Moyer, Adam [moyer.adam@epa.gov]; Myers, Irina [Myers.Irina@epa.gov]; Myrick, Pamela [Myrick.Pamela@epa.gov]; Nazef, Laura [Nazef.Laura@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Owen, Elise [Owen.Elise@epa.gov]; Parsons, Doug [Parsons.Douglas@epa.gov]; Passe, Loraine [Passe.Loraine@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Pratt, Johnk [Pratt.Johnk@epa.gov]; Price, Michelle [Price.Michelle@epa.gov]; Reese, Recie [Reese.Recie@epa.gov]; Reisman, Larry [Reisman.Larry@epa.gov]; Rice, Cody [Rice.Cody@epa.gov]; Richardson, Vickie [Richardson.Vickie@epa.gov]; Ross, Philip [Ross.Philip@epa.gov]; Sadowsky, Don [Sadowsky.Don@epa.gov]; Santacroce, Jeffrey [Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Saxton, Dion [Saxton.Dion@epa.gov]; Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]; Scheifele, Hans [Scheifele.Hans@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan [schmit.ryan@epa.gov]; Schweer, Greg [Schweer.Greg@epa.gov]; Scott Selken [spselken@up.com]; Scott, Elizabeth [Scott.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Seltzer, Mark [Seltzer.Mark@epa.gov]; Sheehan, Eileen [Sheehan.Eileen@epa.gov]; Sherlock, Scott [Sherlock.Scott@epa.gov]; Simons, Andrew [Simons.Andrew@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Slotnick, Sue [Slotnick.Sue@epa.gov]; Smith, David G. [Smith.DavidG@epa.gov]; Smith-Seam, Rhoda [smith-seam.rhoda@epa.gov]; Stedeford, Todd [Stedeford.Todd@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Symmes, Brian [Symmes.Brian@epa.gov]; Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]; Thompson, Tony [Thompson.Tony@epa.gov]; Tierney, Meghan [Tierney.Meghan@epa.gov]; Tillman, Thomas [Tillman.Thomas@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Tran, Chi [Tran.Chi@epa.gov]; Turk, David [Turk.David@epa.gov]; Vendinello, Lynn [Vendinello.Lynn@epa.gov]; Wallace, Ryan [Wallace.Ryan@epa.gov]; Wheeler, Cindy [Wheeler.Cindy@epa.gov]; Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Williams, Aresia [Williams.Aresia@epa.gov]; Williams, Bridget [Williams.Bridget@epa.gov]; Williamson, Tracy [Williamson.Tracy@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy [Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Yowell, John [yowell.john@epa.gov]
Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

Gaps in EPA Mercury Rule Leave Public at Risk, Lawsuit Claims

By Pat Rizzuto

Posted Dec. 10, 2018, 6:09 PM

The EPA excluded so many companies from a requirement to report their use of mercury that states won't have information they need to protect their residents, Vermont said in a lawsuit challenging the rule.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

Judge Says Former Advisors Can Sue On Pruitt's Policy But Weighs Merits

A federal judge says that some former EPA science advisors can challenge former Administrator Scott Pruitt's 2017 directive barring the agency's advisors from receiving EPA research grants but Judge Trevor McFadden signaled during a Dec. 7 hearing that he is still weighing the merits of the suit.

EPA, Canada Reject Industry Push To Align Chemical Regulatory Decisions

EPA and Canadian regulators are rejecting a push from the chemical industry and other sectors to align regulatory decisions on pesticides and other toxic chemicals, citing conflicting statutory directives and strict time lines for decision-making under the countries' governing statutes such as the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Northeast State Officials Eye Organized Approach On Assessing PFAS Risks

Prompted by a federal agency's strict draft risk values released earlier this year, toxicologists in New York and other Northeast states have held a dialogue on the risks posed by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), an early informal, coordinated effort to prepare for a possible review should state regulators decide to craft drinking water standards.

NRDC Joins Threat To Sue EPA On Delayed Methylene Chloride Ban

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is joining other environmentalists who have threatened to sue EPA over the agency's failure to finalize an Obama-era proposed rule banning the use of methylene chloride (MC) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), highlighting retailers' growing refusal to sell paint strippers containing MC.

Environmentalists File FOIA Action To Force Release Of TSCA CBI Studies

Highlighting their concerns with the data EPA uses under the revised toxics law, environmentalists are filing a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request to force the agency to release two dozen studies that it relies on in its landmark draft assessment of pigment violet 29 (PV29) but which the agency has deemed as confidential business information (CBI) and withheld.

High Court Takes Case Seeking End Of Deference To EPA, Other Agencies

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that seeks to overturn the 21-year-old precedent that requires judges to defer to EPA and other agencies on the meaning of their regulations -- a precedent at the center of many court rulings backing EPA rules but one that many of the court's conservatives have openly criticized for years.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Deference rule may be on the chopping block

Ellen M. Gilmer, E&E News reporter Published: Monday, December 10, 2018

The Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Joe Ravi/Wikimedia Commons

The Supreme Court today agreed to review an agency deference standard often criticized in conservative legal circles.

The justices will hear *Kisor v. O'Rourke*, a case that centers on veteran benefits but has broader implications for the degree to which judges yield to agency decisionmaking. It involves an important administrative law principle often arising in environmental litigation.

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/12/10/stories/1060109209

Lawyers sought advice on Pruitt's 'ever-changing' calendar

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter Published: Monday, December 10, 2018

Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Yuri Gripas/picture alliance/Consolidated/Newscom

Scott Pruitt's calendar had his agency's own lawyers looking elsewhere for guidance.

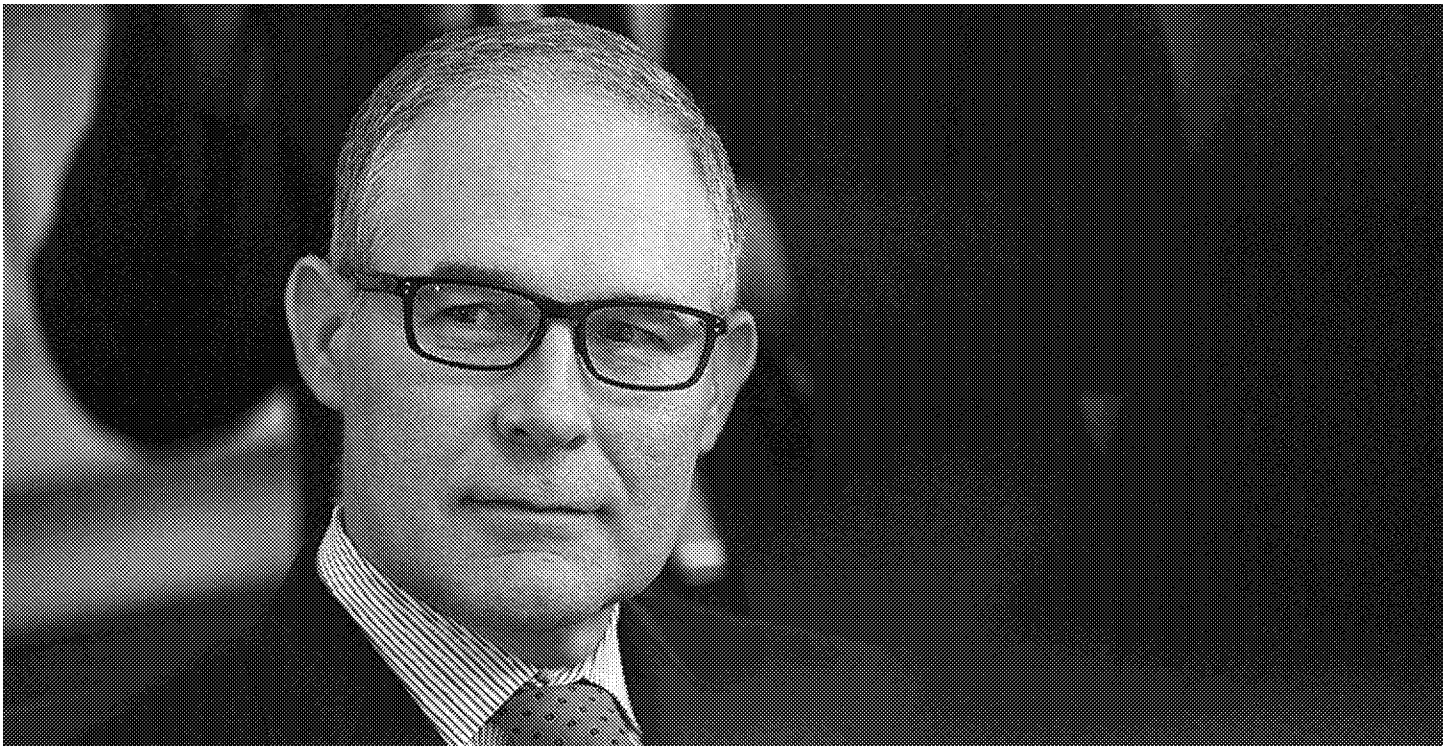
After the then-administrator's staff changed his official calendar, EPA lawyers went outside the agency for advice about how to stay in line with federal records law.

In the fall of 2017, EPA's Office of General Counsel reached out to attorneys in the National Archives and Records Administration — the main agency responsible for the federal government's handling of its own records — to discuss how to maintain Pruitt's calendar. EPA acknowledged in those talks that Pruitt's aides had changed his official calendar, which is run under the Microsoft Outlook program.

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/12/10/stories/1060109193

Trustee of Pruitt's fund defends billionaire's contribution

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter Published: Monday, December 10, 2018



Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Kevin Dietsch/UPI/Newscom

The lawyer who helped establish former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's legal defense fund is defending its operations.

In emails over the weekend, attorney Cleta Mitchell told E&E News she had ensured that a $50,000 contribution to the fund by Diane Hendricks, a billionaire businesswoman and Republican donor, was in line with ethics rules. She also blasted how EPA ethics officials described the contribution as "believed to be in cash" on Pruitt's last financial disclosure report, which was released last week.

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/12/10/stories/1060109199

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

UK product database to address chemical safety issues

UK will need infrastructure to exchange data, regardless of Brexit outcomes

10 December 2018 / Product liability & recalls, Retail, UK

Chemical safety issues in the UK are to be covered by a product database that the government's department for business, energy and industrial strategy (Beis) is developing.

The UK government established the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) in January, following recommendations of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety. Part of the OPSS's strategy is to develop a product safety database. While an exact date is not specified, Beis expects the public to have access to this next year.

In a statement to Chemical Watch, the department confirmed that the database will include any consumer products that are recalled because of a product safety issue, including if a chemical component makes the product unsafe.

"The new database will ensure we are able to continue to identify threats, mount coordinated and rapid responses to those threats and target the interception of high risk products, including imports," its statement reads.

Beis added that the OPSS will seek to put in place a system that enables exchange of key data with all relevant parties in the UK and internationally.

"The Office for Product Safety and Standards will enable the UK to meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation."

As the UK prepares to leave the EU, negotiations continue on how product safety data will be shared. However, Beis said, whatever the result of these, the UK will need a new dedicated infrastructure to exchange secure data between enforcement authorities within the UK internal market.

Safety data

According to the OPSS's strategy, access to datasets has been "identified as an acute problem within the product safety landscape".

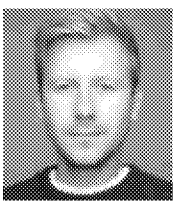
The office plans to work with with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (Rospa) and the College of Medicine to explore the collection of accident data and facilitate better information of injury types and product hazards.

It will also aim to continue gathering data from European and international databases, such as the EU's Rapex and the OECD's Global Recall Portal. This will allow it to share cross-boundary product issues and build a broader picture of product risk and industry compliance.

However, there remains a "challenge in collating and sharing information to enable a robust intelligence picture to be formed, as well as local authority access to external datasets," the strategy statement continues.

It plans to produce an assessment of the "product safety landscape" by the end of March 2019. This will "enable an objective assessment of the current situation and help to identify priorities for further data capture and operational intervention," it says.

Last week, the UK government published additional guidance on UK REACH in the event Britain leaves the EU on 29 March without a deal.



Leigh Stringer

Global Business Editor

Related Articles

- UK releases additional no-deal Brexit REACH guidance

Further Information:

- UK product safety strategy
- OPSS launch press release

Tools in place for 2019 antimony data gathering initiative

11 December 2018 / Data, Europe, Exposure scenarios, Metals, Voluntary action

The International Antimony Association (i2a) says guidance, monitoring equipment and reporting templates have been developed ready for its data gathering initiative for antimony compounds.

The trade body announced its plans last year for a campaign in 2019 to generate exposure information on all REACH registered antimony substances, including those under evaluation by German authorities.

Other countries, including Japan and the US, are also evaluating workplace exposure of some of the compounds.

The association has produced a guidance document for participants in the project. This will be finalised and released in January, following feedback.

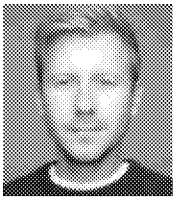
In addition, there will be a dedicated campaign website and a workshop on 21 February to set it in motion.

Participating companies can "get acquainted" with the monitoring equipment, guidance and the templates for submitting information, said i2a's secretary general Caroline Braibant.

The monitoring campaign will run for two years. And data will be submitted to the European authorities as part of the substance evaluation of antimony compounds.

The association is calling on downstream users of antimony to be involved.

Last month, the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) confirmed its provisional conclusion that antimony trioxide is "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen".



Leigh Stringer

Global Business Editor

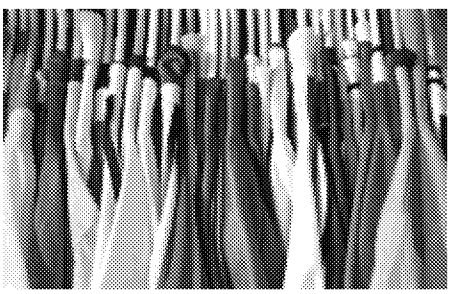
Related Articles

- Antimony industry to start data gathering effort in 2019
- US will add antimony trioxide to carcinogen list

EU survey finds article suppliers lack information on SVHCs

Less than half of 174 companies felt 'well-informed'

11 December 2018 / Europe, REACH



Nearly half of article manufacturers taking part in an EU-wide survey said they were not sufficiently informed about the presence of SVHCs in their products, to be able respond to consumer enquiries in accordance with REACH.

Article 33 of the Regulation stipulates that suppliers will provide recipients of articles containing SVHCs with information to allow their safe use. This includes every article incorporated as a component of a complex product.

They are also obliged to give the same information, free of charge, to consumers within 45 days of receiving a request.

An online survey, carried out between June and September this year by pan-European project AskREACH, received responses from 174 EU article manufacturers. The results showed that only 47% of the participating companies from 12 countries felt "well-informed or quite well-informed" about the presence of SVHCs in their articles.

A report accompanying the results says this may be linked to another finding that 43% of the companies did not have an IT-solution to collect and manage information on SVHCs.

Of the companies participating, 43% also said they had received information requests from consumers, with French companies reporting an average of 84 requests a month. But nearly half of them did not have the information to provide an immediate response, it said.

The findings confirm that "a large proportion of companies are not well-prepared to respond to consumers' 'right to know' requests".

In addition, more than half of the companies (57%) agreed it is "technically complicated" to comply with Article 33.

One major reason for this may be the lack of supply chain communication, the report said. This could be tackled with an approach "heading towards full material declaration (FMD)", it added. AskREACH is developing a supply chain tool with pilot companies to support steps in this direction.

FMD provides the percentage weight of each individual material in a part and the weight of each substance intentionally added to each material.

Project

The AskREACH project aims to improve the way companies handle SVHCs in their supply chains and respond to consumer information requests.

The five-year project, which started in September 2017, is coordinated by the German Environment Agency and consists of 20 partner organisations from 13 countries, including government and research institutes and NGOs.

It came in response to findings that consumers experience severe difficulties in accessing information on SVHCs in articles because companies themselves rarely have sufficient knowledge of their obligations under Article 33.

Of the companies returning the survey questionnaire, most came from France (67), Germany (50), Sweden (15) and the Czech Republic (12). Almost 60% described themselves as small or medium-sized enterprises. The sectors most represented in the survey were:

- textiles, clothes, shoes and accessories (other than outdoor);
- electronics (computers, televisions, washing machines, blenders, smartphones, etc); and
- domestic articles including kitchen utensils, decorative products.

Smartphone app

AskREACH is also developing an EU-wide smartphone app for consumers to launch information requests in accordance with Article 33. The app is due to launch in April.

It will be connected to a European database with information on SVHCs in articles. Suppliers and retailers will be able to upload information via a barcode.

If the desired data is not available, a request will be sent automatically to the supplier, who will be helped with another IT tool to facilitate communication in the supply chain.

Echa is developing its own database on SVHCs in articles as part of an amendment to Article 9 of the waste framework Directive. Companies will have until the end of 2020 to submit the information if they produce, import or sell articles that contain REACH candidate list substances.

European consumer group, Beuc, has recommended that the agency collaborate with AskREACH to ensure the two databases share information.

Clelia Oziel

EMEA correspondent

Related Articles

- 'Ambitious' database on SVHCs in articles needed – Beuc
- EU-wide consumer app aims to foster substitution of SVHCs
- Amended EU waste Directive to require notification on SVHCs in articles
- Echa sets database deadline for SVHCs in articles

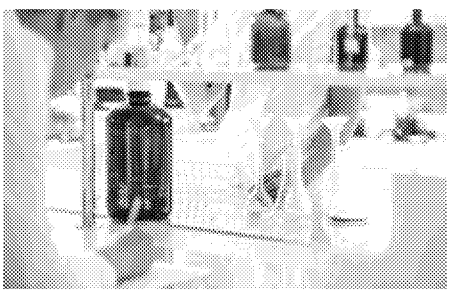
Further Information:

- Survey

Lab capacity could halt EU endocrine disruptor assessments

Industry expects hundreds of substances will need testing at once, conference hears

11 December 2018 / Active substances, Biocides, EDCs, Europe



The pesticide industry has voiced concerns that substance evaluations against the new criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors (EDCs) could grind to a halt because of capacity issues at testing laboratories.

Discussing the issue at the Fresenius International EDC conference in November, stakeholders warned that a large number of active substances will need to be evaluated at the same time.

The criteria became applicable under the biocidal products Regulation (BPR) on 7 June. For pesticides, this was from 10 November.

These dates introduced a 'stop the clock' mechanism for ongoing substance evaluations under the two laws. Assessments will be put on hold until the applicants and evaluating authorities have obtained and assessed the additional data needed to conclude on the EDC criteria.

Under the BPR, approval decisions for more than 30 active substance and product-type combinations are already on hold awaiting assessment. Echa has, however, assured industry that it will only be asked to generate additional data if "absolutely necessary".

And under the plant protection products (PPP) Regulation, 'stop the clock' will apply to any pending application for the renewal of a substance that was submitted before 10 November.

Backlog expected

At the conference in Cologne, several industry stakeholders voiced concerns that hundreds of PPP substances will be held back for testing.

Jean-Pierre Busnardo from Corteva Agriscience – the agricultural division of DowDuPont – said that this, combined with the complexity of testing for endocrine disrupting properties according to the relevant guidance, will cause significant delays.

Performing the relevant testing will typically take six to nine months if contracted out to an independent laboratory, he said. But with most companies lacking the expertise to test against the EDC criteria in-house, "we will all be competing for the laboratories' time and expertise".

While this is not likely to be a problem for performing the simpler *in vitro* tests, Mr Busnardo expected "serious capacity problems" for completing the *in vivo* tests.

In addition, the testing is new ground even for experts. Some of the tests "are not necessarily sufficiently validated at this stage" and will be a challenge for the laboratories, he said.

Mr Busnardo also said that a lot of data will need to be generated in the coming years that will rely on lab animals. This, he said, does not fit with highly established EU principles on the subject.

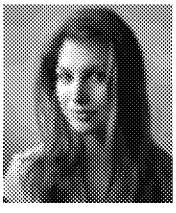
Deadlines

Applicants will also have deadlines to comply with. For pesticides, the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa) will set applicants a deadline for the submission of extra data, which may not exceed 30 months, the European Commission's head of sector pesticides, Karin Nienstedt said in Cologne.

Once submitted, the evaluating member state will be allowed 60 days to assess the information.

"What happens if I can't deliver on the Efsa specified deadlines?" Mr Busnardo asked. "Will my substance go off the market? The European Commission needs to take [testing] shortages into account. If they're not, a number of substance will miss their deadlines."

When asked whether the Commission is worried about lab capacity issues, Ms Nienstedt said Brussels is "aware that this will mean a lot of additional work for everybody". She added that there could be "pragmatic strategies to reduce the workload and reduce animal testing" for substances that are of low concern.



Vanessa Zainzinger

Biocides editor

Related Articles

- Guidance published as biocides EDC criteria enter into effect
- Echa BPC refuses six silver approvals
- Lab capacity could halt EU endocrine disruptor assessments

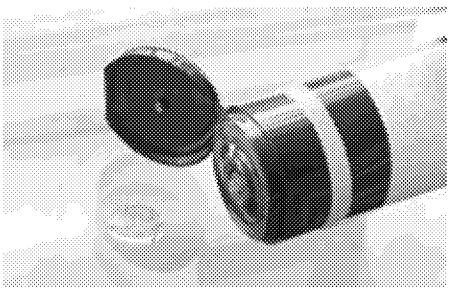
Further Information:

- Conference

Denmark to impose temporary ban on microplastics in cosmetics

Ban will apply from January 2020 'at the latest', minister says

11 December 2018 / Denmark, Microplastics



Denmark is to introduce a temporary ban on microplastics added to rinse-off cosmetics until an EU-wide measure comes into play, its environment minister has said. It is also considering extending the ban to all cosmetics products "within three years".

Minister for Environment and Food Jakob Ellemann-Jensen said the national ban would be imposed "as soon as possible".

For rinse-off products, it will apply from 1 January 2020 "at the latest", he said, and "an analysis must be made of whether intentionally added microplastics can also be banned nationally in other cosmetic products within three years."

The measures will be temporary, he added, "until the European Commission is ready with a proposal for regulation".

In January, the European Commission asked Echa to prepare a REACH Annex XV restriction dossier on the use of intentionally added microplastic particles for all consumer and professional use products.

And in September, the European Parliament backed calls to adopt a ban on those intentionally added to cosmetics, personal care products, detergents and cleaning products by 2020.

Some EU member states have already taken action to curtail their release in cosmetics and personal care products. The UK has banned them and Sweden and Belgium have made similar proposals.

However, the Nordic Council, an intergovernmental cooperation body representing Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, has said it will wait to see the scope of the EU strategy before taking action.

'All of them'

Europe's cosmetics industry has been phasing out microplastics voluntarily.

According to the Danish statement, trade body Cosmetics Europe says its members have removed them from 97.6% of all rinse-off products on the market.

But NGO coalition Beat the Microbead has called for industry action to go beyond synthetic, solid particles used for exfoliating and cleansing. The same chemical ingredients may remain in the formulations for functions other than exfoliating, it said.

Denmark's Ellemann-Jensen acknowledged industry efforts to eliminate the microbeads from certain products, but "my ambition is it should be for all of them."

He cited figures from the Danish EPA indicating that microplastic from cosmetics represent 0.1% of all such emissions to the aquatic environment.

Clelia Oziel

EMEA correspondent

Related Articles

- EU prepares comprehensive microplastics restriction
- European Parliament votes in favour of microplastics ban
- UK microbeads ban enters into force
- Sweden proposes ban on microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics
- Belgium mulls 'total ban' on microplastics in consumer products
- NGO coalition urges EU-wide ban on microplastics in cosmetics

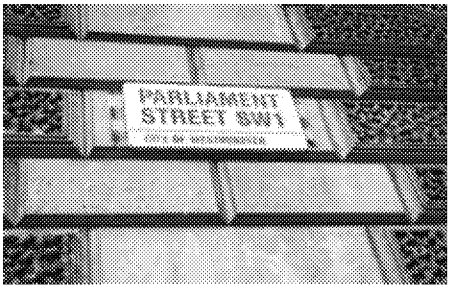
Further Information:

- Statement (in Danish)

Industry calls for calm amid Brexit vote uncertainty

'Destabilising' period following prime minister's postponement

11 December 2018 / Europe, REACH, UK



The Chemical Industries Association (CIA) has urged industry to remain calm and called for "collective leadership" to help deliver an "orderly" Brexit following the postponement of a crucial UK parliament vote.

On 10 December, prime minister Theresa May called off a House of Commons vote on Britain's withdrawal deal from the EU, saying it would be rejected by a significant number of MPs. She is now seeking negotiation of changes with the trade bloc and no date has been set for the parliamentary vote.

"This deal is not perfect but, in the absence of any other agreement, it represents a good opportunity for the sector we represent," Steve Elliott, CIA chief executive, said.

He said the CIA will support any changes that "keep alive" the three points the association has called for since the referendum in June 2016 – frictionless free trade, regulatory consistency and access to skilled people.

The trade body has been pressing for clarity and certainty, it said, "but if it takes another short period of time to secure a pragmatic outcome then that is time well spent.

"At critical moments in negotiation you don't panic but stay calm to deliver the best outcome. We have said from day one the best negotiations often go down to the wire. If that happens here then we can move on from what feels like political gridlock."

No deal

Meanwhile, Peter Newport, chief executive of the Chemical Business Association, said delaying the vote has "added to the uncertainties" confronting the chemical supply chain.

"We now face a further destabilising period of indecision, during which the industry's contingency plans will be taken forward as the only prudent response protecting continued growth and jobs."

The "worst of all" possible outcomes – a no-deal Brexit – is becoming increasingly likely, he added.

The CBA said it has already made it clear to the government that its plans for this eventuality are "unworkable and unsustainable".

And NGO CHEM Trust's executive director Michael Warhurst said it is "very clear" a no-deal Brexit is "a very bad option for the protection of the UK population and environment from hazardous chemicals".

The UK would immediately lose access to the REACH database and there are also "major concerns" about Britain's no-deal plans for a new chemical regulator, he added.

"It is essential that the UK remains in REACH and related EU chemicals legislation – this can be achieved by remaining in the EU (in which case the UK would still have a vote in decision making) or by agreeing the transition arrangement, followed by negotiating a trade deal which includes REACH."

Luke Buxton

EMEA desk editor

Related Articles

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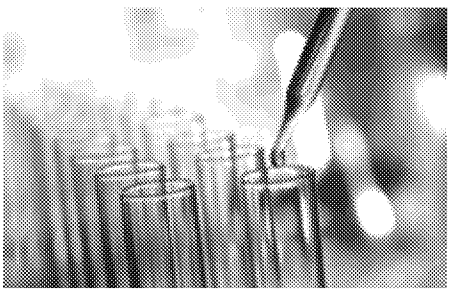
Andreas Kortenkamp boosts calls for legal mandates for mixture risk assessment

Regulatory changes could be gradual

11 December 2018 / Mixture effects, UK



Embedding mixture risk assessment (MRA) in regulatory systems will require legal mandates, according to Andreas Kortenkamp, professor of human toxicology at Brunel University in London.

It's almost a decade since Professor Kortenkamp and two collaborators published their state-of-the-art report on mixture toxicity for the European Commission. At the time, they called for "consistent and clear" mandates for taking mixture toxicity into account in legislation.

The situation appears to have changed little in the intervening years.

Professor Kortenkamp disagrees with an industry view that current regulatory schemes are adequate and that additive effects are already accounted for by controlling individual chemicals.

"I would argue that we still don't have enough experience with real MRAs, by which I mean those including hundreds or even thousands of chemicals, modelled on real exposure scenarios," he told Chemical Watch.

In an article in Chemical Watch's *Global Business Briefing*, Professor Kortenkamp and Carl-Gustaf Bornehag from Karlstad University in Sweden agree that there is an acute need for more data on mixtures, particularly relating to exposure.

But a lack of data is not a good reason to delay making regulatory changes, Professor Kortenkamp added. These could be made gradually, initially focusing on integrating closely linked areas of regulation, for example, bringing together pesticides and food contact materials, he suggested.

In the first instance, policy makers could apply a mixture assessment factor, he said.

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